

OUR BOYS IN BLUE.

Interesting Meeting of the Honolulu Rifles—They Will Not Disband:

Pursuant to Battalion Order No. 22, published in that day's papers, the Honolulu Rifles met at their armory on the 12th inst. to take final action on the question of disbandment. There were present about one hundred and fifty men of the corps, in fatigue dress, wearing side arms. The meeting was called to order on time, and Colonel Ashford, after referring to the order calling them together, proceeded to give a history of the circumstances leading up to the present stage of the disbandment question.

He commenced by saying that he would follow the rule laid down and insisted upon by himself since first entering the Rifles—that no politics should be introduced into the corps. But this rule must not be construed so strictly as to prevent reference to any governmental policy referring directly to the corps as a military body. Soon after the resolution it was seen that there was a secret loose somewhere, and the animus against the Rifles of parties who should in honor have upheld them, led to a state of things which made it indeed a patriotic act to wear the uniform, when people who owed their safety and security of person and property, as well as position, in some instances, to the Rifles, united in the cry of military despotism, and similar political heretical charges. But so long as there was danger, the Rifles didn't heed this talk, but stood by the ship. When, however, a time came in which the animosities engendered by the revolution seemed cooling down, the difference between the Rifles and the "War Office" had drifted into open hostility at headquarters; the Minister of War being good enough to compliment the Rifles with names one never hears at church, and to bring in a bill to disband them. The bill, however, got what they call in British parliamentary bodies, the "six months' nois," and finally the Minister followed his bill. But meantime a feeling had been created that the Government and the Legislature didn't want any military "protection," and there was no disposition among the Rifles to force it upon them. Hence the origin of the disbanding idea, which at one time seemed quite active. But the Minister now at the head of the Department was a gentleman who had ideas common to a soldier, having been one himself. He understood the situation thoroughly, and knew full well the value of an efficient volunteer organization. He had no personal animosities, but on the other hand the most kindly feelings. He had been instrumental in securing to the officers the repayment of the running expenses of the battalion, which had become quite a heavy drain. Altogether, he seemed the right man in the right place, and the causes of objection which had existed to a very serious extent seemed now to be permanently removed. More than that; when the subject of disbandment had been seriously under consideration, a committee of officers and professional men of the city, in order to get a view of the feeling among what might be called our representative citizen; and this committee reported that every citizen called upon had urged the continuance of the organization, and offered any necessary degree of financial support. The present meeting was called as an adjourned meeting of the officers and non-commissioned officers of a week ago, at which time it was decided to place the matter fully before each of the several companies, during last week. If the present state of affairs had existed at the times above spoken of there would never have been any talk of disbandment; but now that it had assumed this shape he called on the commanders of companies to report the action of their individual commands.

Each Captain in succession then reported his company as having voted unanimously, at full meetings, against disbandment.

A resolution was then moved, "That the Honolulu Rifles do not disband," and was carried unanimously, with great cheering.

The Colonel, continuing, urged patience, promptness and regular attendance at drills. He urged the continuance of four companies, with officers, non-commissioned officers and staff all full—even if the number of men should be reduced to a "skeleton" battalion, which he was sure would not be the case, however; and illustrated the benefit of a full "establishment" by saying that though the peace and war footings of the British army sometimes varied as one to three, yet they never reduced the number of companies, regiments, or corps—the reduction being made, when necessary, in the privates. This made a perfect "skeleton" organization, which could be filled with recruits any time without affecting the efficiency of the service. This policy was vindicated, too, in the Anglo-American War of 1812-15, the first time the British were ever matched behind their "walls of oak," where military critics accounted for the great achievements of the Americans at sea from the fact of their having a comparatively larger proportion of commissioned officers among their men than the British. He had hope for, and faith in the future prosperity of the Rifles.

The officers and men showed their decided concurrence in the sentiments expressed by the commanding officer. Some routine business was then transacted, and the magnificent prize gold-mounted rifle, now in the hands of Quartermaster Hall, was arranged to be shot for, by companies, on June 11th. A committee of officers was also appointed to devise ways and means for adding company rooms and recreations for arms and recreations to the Rifles' Armory, after which the meeting adjourned.

The Moscow Gazette urges the necessity of alliance between Russia, England and France.

It is estimated that \$3,250,000 pounds of East India tea will be available for export this year.

Five years ago Wichita, Kan., was a town of 5,000 inhabitants. To-day it is a flourishing city of 40,000 inhabitants, and is the seat of eleven schools and colleges and the Barton Paper Works.

THE LIQUOR PROBLEM—V.

Before leaving this brief review of prohibition in Iowa I wish to present some testimony bearing upon a different phase of the subject. Senator Clark, one of Iowa's most promising men, in a letter dated October 14, 1887, makes the following statement of facts:

"Prohibition in Iowa is having a wonderful effect on the criminal business. Cedar Rapids, for the first time in its history, has no prisoner in jail, nor is there one in the County Jail. And all over Iowa the lawyers and judges state that crime has decreased wonderfully. Every place in the United States that tries it has a similar experience. This city—Clarinda—had five saloons before the law went into effect. The five saloons paid \$2,500 revenue every year. But the last year they existed we had 148 criminal cases before the Mayor, and we paid 10 mills tax for municipal purposes. We had to keep a Marshal, a Deputy Marshal, and three police officers. The next year, without saloons, we paid only 5 mills tax, discharged the Marshal, the Deputy Marshal and all the police force, and now only have a Street Commissioner, who is able to keep the peace. And we had only 40 cases of crime. Red Oak and Hamburg have had similar experience."

Last July Governor Martin, in reply to a special dispatch sent from St. Joseph, Missouri, to a Chicago paper, and utilized by the Associated Press, to the effect that the closing of the saloons had wrought financial ruin in Atchison, Kansas, making it necessary to discharge a great part of the police, to discontinue the fire service, and to shut off the gas and electric light, wrote a letter from which the following extracts are taken:

"I am thoroughly familiar with the condition of the city of Atchison, and personally know that the statements embodied in the St. Joseph dispatch are false and misleading. The gas, electric light and water supply of the city have never been turned off. Its fire department has been, and is, continuously on duty. Its police force has been largely reduced, but has, in the absence of saloons, been able to preserve the peace and protect the property of its citizens. A local dispute concerning methods of taxation, and involving the collection of a tax which has been collected in the city of St. Joseph for many years past, is the only foundation for the malicious and untruthful dispatch from that place. Atchison abolished the last of its saloons in the fall of 1886. The whisky interests prophesied that this action would seriously injure the business of the city. It has had no such effect. Atchison is more prosperous to-day than it has been for many years past."

"More substantial improvements are being made, and more buildings are being erected in Atchison this year than during any previous year in its history."

"The St. Joseph dispatch is only a fair specimen of hundreds of false and malicious statements I have seen published in the newspapers of the country during the past three or four years concerning Kansas and Kansas towns. The whisky interests predicted that the abolition of saloons in Kansas would injuriously affect the material prosperity of the State, and falsehoods, intended to confirm this view, are constantly invented and circulated in every section of the country, and especially in States where movements are being made to banish the saloons. I am receiving letters daily from different States making inquiries concerning the effects and results of our temperance laws on the financial, commercial and other material interests of our State, and these letters all indicate that the work of maligning Kansas is going on in every section of the country. Permit me, therefore, to give you the real facts:

"The Prohibition Amendment to our constitution was adopted in the autumn of 1880, and the first laws to enforce it went into effect in May, 1881. The war to banish saloons was, for some years, only partially successful. The amendment had been adopted by a very meagre majority, and public sentiment in all our larger cities was overwhelmingly against it. As late as Jan. 1885, saloons were open in fully thirty of the larger cities of Kansas, including Topeka, the capital of the State. But steadily and surely the public sentiment against them spread and intensified. The small majority that had voted for the Amendment was re-enforced, first by those law-respecting citizens who are always willing to subordinate their personal opinions to the majesty of the law; and second, by an equally large number, who, observing the practical results following the abolition of saloons in different cities and towns, became convinced that Kansas would be more prosperous, happier, and in all respects a better community of people if it had not an open saloon within its borders. So the sentiment of Kansas against the liquor traffic has grown and strengthened, until to-day I very much doubt whether, of its 300,000 male voters, more than 25,000 would, if they could, invite back and reinstate the saloon. The argument of the whisky interest, viz., that saloons promote the prosperity and growth of communities, has been answered in Kansas by the convincing logic of facts."

Governor Martin here introduces figures to show the wonderful prosperity of Kansas under prohibition:

"For the fiscal year, 1880, the percentage of State taxation was five and one-half mills; for the present fiscal year the total percentage levied for all State purposes is only four and one-half mills. During the past two years and a half I have organized seventeen counties in the western section of the State, and census takers have been appointed for four other counties, leaving only two counties remaining to be organized. The cities and towns of Kansas, with hardly an exception, have kept pace in growth and prosperity with this marvelous development of the State. Many of them have doubled their population during the past year. And it is a remarkable fact that several cities and towns languished or stood still until they abolished their saloons, and from that date to the present time their growth and prosperity has equaled, and in some cases surpassed, that of other places with equal natural advantages. Summing up, the facts of the census count and confound those who assert that the material prosperity of any community is promoted by the presence of saloons. So far as Kansas and all her cities and towns are concerned, the reverse of these assertions is true. The most wonderful era of prosperity, of material, moral and intellectual development, of growth in country, cities and towns, ever witnessed in the American continent, has been illustrated in Kansas during the six years since the temperance amendment to our Constitution was adopted, and especially during the past two years, the period of its most energetic and complete enforcement."

Other testimonies will be brought forward, the editor's patience holding out; but these in themselves give a strong presumption in favor of the success of the prohibitory system in reducing the evils of the liquor traffic to the lowest possible point. This paper is already too long to admit of anything further this week, so other proofs must wait till another time.

HENRY L. TOWNSEND.

A Literary Tournament.

EDITOR GAZETTE.—I read Ho Fon's letter with considerable interest and expected to see some valiant scribe "go for" him. Well, Mr. John F. Smith has taken him in hand and laid him out to the satisfaction, doubtless, of at least one anti-Asiatic, to wit, Mr. John F. Smith. But, shades of Minerva, if Ho Fon is to be cauterized with Christian assumptions of superiority, let us have it done in white man's English. From a literary point of view, Ho Fon, the Chinaman, has little chance of enlightenment from Mr. J. F. Smith, his Christian reviewer. Ho Fon need not weep if his Anglicized pen fails in producing a herd of literary "bulls" like those running wild through Mr. Smith's correspondence in last evening's *Bulletin*, of which the following may be trotted out as specimens: "quiet readable"; "the white man will conquer the Chinese wherever he meets"; "the exhalations which seem to permit his abode"; "no white man is capable to encounter"; "the great thrift and lowly smelling presence"; "is keeping on to crowd him"; "he shall not be dumped among our midst to hurt in interests"; "we want them were they belong, were they will work."

If we are to have a tournament between the Chinese editor and the Christian English correspondent, let the Englishman, at least, clothe his thunder in phrases that will exemplify an acquaintance with his own language. SPECTATOR.

Honolulu, March 14, 1888.

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